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of distribution, however, at least as regards essentials he places himself squarely on the same footing with those adherents of the productivity theory to whom the above classification of the factors of production seems to be especially objectionable. To his view, as to theirs, under normal or static conditions each factor gets what it produces. In the development of the theory the mathematical method with its use of the marginal and differential concepts is employed throughout. In his treatment of the rent of land gradations between different kinds of land and the different powers in each kind are regarded as so far from being infinitesimal as to warrant a classification analogous to the author's classification of labor groups—which, it may be added, is modeled after Cairns' theory of non-competing groups. From a pedagogical standpoint the whole discussion of distribution is full of difficulties, for except under the most skillful exposition at the hands of a thoroughly equipped teacher the average student will fail to eliminate the frictional forces from his view of normal economic processes and will not acquire the habit of reasoning in marginals and differentials. On the other hand, frequent, thorough and accurate summaries of arguments here as elsewhere in the book, and unambiguous and consistent use of terms (*e. g.*, in the distinctions between capital and capital goods, between cost and expense and between painful effort and sacrifice) ought to do much to neutralize these difficulties.

In conclusion it ought to be said of the work as a whole that the author's manifest attempt to make it at once concise, comprehensive and authoritative, although adding to its merit as a treatise on economics, is likely to detract from its usefulness as a text-book with students of immature mind. But even when this has been said the reviewer cannot avoid the opinion that the book is altogether the best introduction to the study of economics that has yet been written.

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The Expansion of Russia, 1815-1900. FRANCIS HENRY SKRINE, F.S.S. Pp. viii, 386. Price, 6s. Cambridge: University Press, 1903.

A concise historical account of the expansion of Russia in the nineteenth century, relating not only to the military and diplomatic events connected with it, but also exposing the underlying racial and economic causes, would be a welcome addition to the ever increasing literature on the Eastern situation. Mr. Skrine's book, however, only partially meets this need. The title which he has chosen is not a true index of the contents. The work is in reality a general history of Russia written after the style of the Oxford series of European History, edited by Hassall. The author has not made the salient features of Russian expansion the central theme of his book, but has simply grouped the events of foreign and domestic importance under the reigns covering the period with which he deals. True to English precedent, he treats politics and diplomacy with great detail. Considerable attention is devoted to the part played by Alexander I. in the European settlement of 1815, to the Russification and government of Poland, to the Turkish question, and to the advance in Asia. One of the most interesting features of the book is the attitude which the author, a retired Indian

civil servant, takes toward Anglo-Russian relations in the East. While believing that the true interests of Russia lie in the Asiatic rather than in the European advance, Mr. Skrine scouts the idea of Russian designs upon British dominions. Quite rightly he regards the successive stages of Russian advance into the south-east as the result of unforeseen and inevitable circumstances rather than of a far-sighted and conscious policy. The Russian movements in the direction of India he considers merely as menaces to England in case the latter power attempts to thwart her real purpose in the Asiatic advance which is the opening of Eastern trade routes through the ice free ports. The author condemns British foreign policy in the East as "one of undignified protest and panic," and pleads for a *modus vivendi* and cordial relations between the two countries. This view is held by a large number of Englishmen—even Lord Beaconsfield thought Asia wide enough for both Russia and England—but the logic of recent events may alter their opinion. Had Mr. Skrine written his book after the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, he might not have been so optimistic, even though he regards Japan as intoxicated by the "lust of dominion"—a species of intoxication not peculiar to that people. In the competition for the land-borne Indian trade and predominance in Persia, the author considers Germany "a more subtle antagonist than England." On the Finnish question, Mr. Skrine takes middle ground, holding that "perfervid patriotism has led the Finlanders to forget past favors and the wisdom of conciliating their mighty neighbor," while Russia "might probably have secured all her aims by adopting strictly legal methods and appealing to the steadfast loyalty of the Finnish people." Russian social and economic questions are not neglected in the book, although their interesting character makes one wish that more space had been devoted to them. Domestic reforms in civil and military administration, abolition of serfdom, extension of the railway system and, especially, the industrial developments of the last quarter of a century are treated somewhat at length. Mr. Skrine believes in the "intrinsic soundness" of the new capitalist undertakings, notwithstanding some apparent instability. He points out the imminence of the social revolution which must follow the shifting of economic forces and classes brought about by the industrial revolution. The book closes with a brief account of the Tsar's peace circular and The Hague Conference, which is held to be "not devoid of solid results." The value of the work is enhanced by a full and well-selected bibliography, a carefully prepared index, and three maps—two of which are of special importance, showing step by step the extension of the frontiers and the present expanse of the Empire with all its important railway trunk lines.

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